

Berlin Office:
W. Potsdamer
Strasse 10/11.
Telephone:
VI 1079.

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Dresden Office:
A. Struve
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Telephone:
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GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

The debate on Naval affairs which took place on Wednesday was kept within the bounds of that which recently occurred in the Lower House. Earl Cawdor welcomed the latest statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's with regard to ships of the "Dreadnought" type and, referring to the two-Power standard, said that England's position should be one, not only of unassailable supremacy, but of dominant superiority over the two strongest foreign fleets, no matter to what countries they belonged.

Lord Tweedmouth, the first Lord of the Admiralty, in the course of a lengthy reply, said that his predecessor had understood, by the two-Power standard, the two next strongest fleets plus 10 per cent. He himself preferred to define the two-Power standard as any conceivable probable combination of foreign Powers; he would rather not indicate any one or two in particular. It was the duty of every Government to consider all the circumstances of England's position with regard to foreign Powers, and to regulate her standard of strength accordingly. The Minister went on to say that experiments were at present being made with all classes of warships. The three ships of the "Temeraire" type would be far superior to the "Dreadnought" type, those of the "St. Vincent" type would also be a great advance on that type. The programme would result in England's having in the spring of 1911 three squadrons, each composed of four of these ships. He confidently assured the House that no Power would then have such a fleet of first-class battleships. He was almost inclined to go so far as to say that a combination of all the Powers of the world would not then be able to produce such a squadron.

Earl Cawdor having remarked that he was not satisfied with Lord Tweedmouth's definition of the two-Power standard, the subject was dropped.

THE FRENCH PRESIDENT'S VISIT.

It is officially announced in Paris that on the occasion of President Fallières' visit to England, he will be escorted by four French cruisers.

SHIPBUILDING DISPUTE STILL UNSETTLED.

The proposals brought forward by the employers in the North East coast shipbuilding dispute have been rejected by the men by 4,356 votes against 3,693.

BRITISH MANUFACTURERS INDIGNANT.

Mr. H. E. Kearley, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, in the absence of Mr. Lloyd George received a deputation representing various industrial bodies from Sheffield. The deputation stated that foreign manufactured articles were imported into England, where they were stamped as British made, and then exported to neutral countries, to the detriment of British industry. The delegates urged, therefore, that all such goods should be marked in such a manner as would show that they were not of British origin. Mr. Kearley, in his reply, stated that Mr. Lloyd George would certainly consider whether it is not possible to so frame the existing laws on this point as to provide proper and adequate defence for home industries against this form of attack.

To another deputation received personally on the following day, Mr. Lloyd George declared that in the event of palpable deception being practised the Board of Trade would take necessary steps for the protection of honest manufacturers and workers.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

ADMIRAL EVANS TO RETIRE.

Advices from Washington report that Admiral Robley Evans will relinquish the command of the United States Atlantic Fleet upon its arrival at San Francisco. His resignation is purely voluntary, and is based on considerations of health. The Secretary of the Navy announces that the Atlantic Fleet will return under the command of Rear-Admiral Sperry, who has been appointed the successor of "Fighting Bob."



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STOP PRESS NEWS.

SERIOUS REVERSE TO GERMAN TROOPS.

The German troops in South-West Africa suffered a serious reverse in taking Simon Copper's kraal in the Kalahari. Captain v. Ereker, Lieutenant Ebinger and twelve men were killed, while nine men were seriously wounded. The enemy lost fifty-eight killed, but Simon Copper escaped.

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THE ALDRICH CURRENCY BILL.

The Financial Committee of the Senate, has unanimously decided to subjoin an amendment to the Financial Bill introduced by Senator Aldrich, excluding the employment of railroad bonds as security for the national bank-note circulation.

COLLISION IN NEW YORK HARBOUR.

While leaving New York harbour in a fog on Wednesday morning, the N. D. L. mail steamer "Kronprinz Wilhelm" was run into by the British steamer "Crown of Castile," the latter's stem penetrating some twelve feet into the bow of the German liner. The "Kronprinz Wilhelm" sustained considerable damage above the water-line, but the propellers and steering-apparatus do not appear to have suffered injury.

THE DISTURBANCES IN HAYTI.

The English cruiser "Indefatigable" and the German cruiser "Bremen" have arrived at Port au Prince. It is not believed that the lives of foreigners are in danger; quiet prevails in the capital at present. The "Indefatigable" announced her arrival by firing a salute of three guns, whereupon a slight panic occurred in the town; but this was soon allayed when the meaning of the shots was made known.

The Haytian Government makes the announcement that it will permit the departure of refugees, but expresses the hope that in the event of future

rebellions the foreign legations will refrain from offering sanctuary to the revolutionaries. The French fugitives have gone on board the German warship, and will be set ashore on one of the neighbouring Antille islands. A French warship is watching the situation at Gonaives. The energetic intervention by the European Powers has had the effect of saving several lives. The execution of Major Laroq and several of his associates was about to take place just as the warships appeared in the roadstead.

THE PARISIAN THEATRICAL WORLD.

The Paris theatrical publication *Comédia* reports that in a consultation between Premier Clémenceau and M. Dujardin-Beaumetz, Minister for Fine Arts, it was decided to bring about the retirement of M. Claretie, administrator of the Théâtre Français, and to appoint as his successor M. Albert Coné, the present director of the Opera Comique. M. Claretie declares, however, that under no circumstances will he tender his resignation.

RUSSIAN NEWS.

THE NEW RUSSIAN NAVY.

In the course of its deliberations over the Russian Naval Estimates the committee of national defence arrived at the following decisions: To refuse credit for the building of new battleships in 1908; to authorise credit for the ships already projected, together with artillery, torpedo-boats, submarines and naval docks, and the contemplated reconstruction of the fleet,—providing the Ministry of Marine is completely reorganised and the building programme for several years is legally decided upon, so far as is possible. The question of new ships for 1908 was put to the vote, the proposals being rejected by 19 votes against 14.

GENERAL STÖSSEL REPRIEVED.

The Czar of Russia has sanctioned the petition of the court martial recommending the commutation of General Stössel's death sentence to one of ten years' imprisonment in a fortress, inclusive of loss of rank and service.

The Czar has issued a decree to the Army and Navy acknowledging the heroic defence of Port Arthur and declaring that the court martial has punished those responsible for the shameful surrender, besides establishing the unforgotten deeds of heroism performed by the courageous defenders. Grateful Russia will never forget those deeds.

HEALTH OF THE AUSTRIAN EMPEROR.

The condition of the Emperor of Austria continues favourable. The cold has diminished in violence, and all signs point to the speedy termination of His Majesty's indisposition.

NAVAL ASSISTANCE TO QUELL A MUTINY.

Details have just transpired at Portsmouth of alleged insubordination on the part of the Russian crew of the British barque "Truro", which resulted in Naval assistance being invoked. The vessel, which is bound from London to the West Indies, grounded off Worthing in going down Channel, and though she was not apparently materially damaged, the crew contended that she ought to be surveyed before proceeding on her voyage.

The demand not being promptly conceded the men's attitude, it is alleged, became such that the captain and two other officers became alarmed, and on Wednesday made signals of distress to the British cruiser, "Berwick", anchored at Spithead, and on a naval party boarding the "Truro", they were informed that the officers were held in terror by the 11 remaining men.

The captain of the "Berwick" promptly sent a party of twelve Royal Marine Light Infantry under arms to take charge while he communicated with the Russian Consul at Portsmouth. Two of the crew were removed, and after some time efforts to pacify the remainder proved successful, but the marine guard was not withdrawn until the following evening.

The vessel remains at Spithead awaiting further instructions from the firm chartering her, but no further trouble is anticipated.